

EMA and 911 Create Special Needs Registry

Should You Register?

Cleburne County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and Cleburne 911 have partnered to create a list of county residents with medical, physical and other special needs. The information will be added to the county's 911 database to enhance emergency planning and response. Registering with the program is free.

After a person registers with the program, information about their medical, physical and other special needs will be available to Cleburne 911 dispatchers. If a call is made to 911 from a telephone number of a registered person, the special needs information will appear on the dispatcher's computer screen. The information may be shared with emergency workers responding to the request for help.



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Need to Know More?

As part of its effort to encourage emergency planning for residents and business owners, Cleburne EMA produces publications such as a family emergency preparedness guide, the *Cleburne County Lines* newsletter and a county calendar. To find preparedness information online, visit www.cleburnecounty.us or look for Cleburne EMA on Facebook.

Along with this newsletter, EMA has created a guide to help people with physical, medical and other special needs create personal emergency plans which include their unique abilities and challenges. A brochure about registering with EMA and 911 also is available. To raise community awareness about planning for special needs, presentations were given at the senior nutrition seniors in Fruithurst, Heflin and Ranburne.



Cleburne EMA's publications are distributed at public locations throughout the county such as the County Courthouse, Ranburne Town Hall, Heflin City Hall and Recreation Center, HEARTS offices in Ranburne and Heflin and the local Department of Human Resources.

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Anyone can register their medical, physical and other special needs information. EMA and 911 have produced a program brochure which is available at their offices and other locations throughout the county including Ranburne Town Hall, Heflin City Hall, Cleburne County Court-house, Wright's Pharmacy and HEARTS offices in Heflin and Ranburne. The brochure also has been distributed through the senior nutrition centers in Fruithurst, Heflin and Ranburne. Visit www.cleburnecounty.us/resources to download the brochure.

Registering your special needs information is not a substitute for creating a personal emergency preparedness plan. Think about your medical, physical and other special needs. Determine what unique challenges you may face when planning for, responding to and recovering from a

disaster. Local, state and federal agencies will work to assist you in an emergency but resources are limited so it will take time to respond to everyone who needs assistance. Creating a personal emergency preparedness plan is your best protection and your responsibility.

In the past, residents with special needs were asked to register with a regional database which was sponsored by the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). The new EMA/911 registry is part of Cleburne County's CSEPP Closeout Plan to make the transition from regional to local resources after the chemical weapons stockpile in Anniston was eliminated. If you were previously registered as a resident with special needs, you will need to register again with the county's program. If your physical address, telephone number or special needs information changes after registering, contact the 911 business office at 256.463.8911 to update your record.

Create A Disaster Supply Kit

You should have enough basic supplies on hand to take care of yourself for at least three days if an emergency happens. Consider how an emergency might affect you. You may not have access to a pharmacy or even a grocery store. Think about what kind of resources you use on a daily basis and what you might do if those resources are not available. Plan for your basic needs – food, water, clean air and any life-sustaining items you require. Create two disaster supply kits. In one kit, store items you will need to stay where you are. Your other kit should be a smaller one you can take with you easily if you have to evacuate. Use waterproof containers to store your disaster supplies.

Basic Disaster Supplies should include:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Prescription medications
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First aid kit



Make Creating Help Networks Part of Your Plan

Creating help networks is an important step in being prepared. Build your networks now before a disaster strikes.

A help network can help you prepare for a disaster. They may help you identify and get the resources you need to cope effectively with a disaster. Your network can help you identify hazards that could affect your community and create and practice your emergency preparedness plan. Network members should be able to help you take protective actions before a disaster and can assist you after a disaster happens.

Organize a network for your home, school, workplace, volunteer site and any other place where you spend a lot of time. Members of your network can be family members, neighbors, friends, and co-workers. They should be people you trust and who could check to see if you need assistance. They should know your capabilities and needs, and be able to offer help within minutes.

- Do not depend on only one person. Include a minimum of three people in your network for each location where you regularly spend a lot of time during the week.
- Think of what your needs would be during a disaster and discuss it with your network members. Complete a written assessment of your needs with your network. This can help your network members learn the best ways to assist you and offer additional ideas for you to think about.
- Give your network members copies of your emergency information list, medical information list, disability-related supplies and special equipment list, evacuation plans, relevant emergency documents and emergency preparedness plan.
- Arrange with your network to check on you immediately if a disaster occurs. Do this before an emergency happens so that your network members can help you when you need them. Also, ask your network to notify you of an emergency you may not know about.
- Agree on how you and your network will contact each other during an emergency. Write down contact information for each member of your network.
- Give the members of your network all the necessary keys they may need to get into your home and car.
- Show your network how to operate and safely move any equipment you may use for your physical or medical conditions. Ask them to "practice" using your special equipment. This will help them feel more comfortable when using it during an emergency.
- Explain to your network any assistance for personal care that you may need. Give them written instructions on how best to assist you.
- Label your equipment and attach instruction cards on how to use and move each item. Laminated the instruction cards for added durability.
- Inform your network about any areas on your body where you have reduced feeling. Have them check these areas for injuries after a disaster if you cannot check them yourself.
- Practice your plan and update your plan as your physical and medical needs change.
- Choose an emergency meeting place you are familiar with where you and others can reunite after exiting a building. You should select a meeting place for each area where you spend a lot of time.



Know How to Use EAS

Cleburne County's Emergency Alert System (EAS) consists of emergency alert radios (EARs), outdoor warning sirens and local television and radio stations. The EAS can be used to provide information before, during and after an emergency.

Since 2009, free EARs have been provided to homes, businesses, churches, schools and other locations in Cleburne County. EARs are weather alert radios which receive emergency alerts through the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards network. Your EAR should be programmed to receive alerts for Cleburne County; the county code is 001029. Remember to keep fresh batteries in your EAR so it can continue to receive alerts during a power outage. If your EAR sounds an alert, turn on your television or FM radio and tune to a local EAS station.

If you did not receive an EAR or your EAR is not

working, visit Cleburne EMA's office; a limited number of EARs are still available. Weather alert radios can be purchased at electronics or department stores. EARs have been distributed to provide a free indoor alert device and enhance public safety.

Outdoor warning sirens provide alerts to people who are outdoors. If you hear a siren, go indoors and tune to an EAS television or radio station. Do not rely on outdoor warning sirens to provide alerts when you are indoors.

As part of the CSEP Program, sirens were placed in communities in Cleburne County to provide alerts in the event of a chemical weapons accident at Anniston Army Depot. County officials were allowed to use the sirens for severe weather and other hazards. With the end of the CSEP Program, funding for the sirens also ended and sirens in some areas have been removed.



**141 Davenport Drive
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256.463.7130

**Facebook: Cleburne EMA
www.CleburneCounty.us**

Cleburne County Emergency Alert System Radio and Television Stations

Television

- WBRC Fox 6
- WVTM NBC 13
- WJSU ABC 33/40
- WIAT CBS 42

Radio

- WVOK FM 97.9
- WTDR FM 92.7
- WJCK FM 88.3

